

representative of such person, being deceased, and the discharge of such person has been lost, it shall be competent for the accounting-officers to receive, in lieu of the actual production of such discharge, proof of the actual loss of the same, and secondary proof of its issue and contents, together with proof of the identity of the claimant or person deceased, under such rules defining the character and form of the evidence as the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe; and no adjustment or payment of any claim of any non-commissioned officer, musician, artificer, wagoner, or private soldier, sailor, or marine, or his proper representative, under the provisions of this act, shall be made, unless the application be filed within five years from the passage of the same.

This bill is now before the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate and the Committee of Military Affairs of the House.

#### THE DELAY IN PENSION MATTERS.

In the army appropriation bill, to pass which the extra session was called, is a clause which was intended, in good faith no doubt, to hasten the examination of pension cases, but which will prove inefficient and useless. Instead of appropriating money for an increase of the clerical force in the Surgeon General's Office, as they should have done, Congress merely provided that surplus clerks in the other departments should be detailed to do work in the Surgeon General's Office. No one ever heard of there being a surplus clerk in any department of the Government, and Congress might as well have done nothing.

As is well known all pension cases are sent from the Pension Office to the Surgeon General's Office for an examination of the hospital records. The force of clerks in the latter office is and has been for many years inadequate to the requirements, so that they are now about twenty thousand cases behind the Pension Office.

The following is a sample of the answers that are made to inquiries as to the status of cases in the Pension Office:

"(No. 53.)

"Sec. 2. Invalid Division, J. S. P.

"DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
PENSION OFFICE.

"WASHINGTON, D. C., November 9, 1877.

"SIR: In reply to your inquiry relative to the original pension claim, No. 202,275, of Perry Guthrie, you are informed that it awaits a report from the Surgeon General, U. S. A., who was called upon for the same October 31, 1877.

"Owing to the lack of clerical force in that office a report will not, in its regular order, be received before January 1, 1879, when the further requirements in said case, if any, will be stated.

"Very respectfully,

"J. A. BENTLEY,

"Commissioner.

"GEORGE E. LEMON, Esq., City."

Congressmen do not stop to consider the great want and deprivation that is caused by this delay in obtaining pensions. In many cases,—more than is generally supposed,—pensioners are dependent, almost entirely, for support upon the meager sum they receive from the Government; many widows and orphans of soldiers who died in defense of their country are in great want and destitution, and cases have been reported where families have been turned into the streets because of the delay in the payment of the pension on which they depended for their rent. Children are growing up neglected, to become criminals and outcasts, in cases where, had the means been provided which they were entitled to, they might have become worthy members of society. Some cases have been reported where soldiers' widows have died in extreme need while waiting for the payment of their pensions which were delayed in the Surgeon General's Office.

We are permitted to publish the following pitiful extract from a letter, which illustrates this case:

"DEAR SIR: Yours of the 11th came to hand in due time. I have to inform you that Hannah S. Dane is dead. She died Thursday, August 9, six days before the date of the certificate sent by the Commissioner of Pensions to said Hannah S. Dane to notify her that her claim for a pension was allowed. She was so poor she had to stop keeping house four months ago. Had Mrs. Dane got her pension six months ago, she would be alive now."

Six days after Hannah Dane died,—the poor old mother of a brave soldier who died for his country,—the Government announced that it owed her five hundred dollars. This is not an exceptional case. It is one of many. The expenditure of a few thousand dollars in paying the salaries of additional clerks would save the repetition of many cases like this.

#### THE AMOUNTS DUE YOU

It will be interesting for soldiers to calculate the amount of money that will be coming to them should the bill to equalize bounties be passed, as we are encouraged to believe it will.

Multiply the number of months you were in the service by eight and one third dollars, and subtract the amount of bounty you received from the United States. The remainder will show the amount of bounty you will be entitled to under this bill.

All soldiers who served three months will receive twenty-five dollars.

All soldiers who served nine months will receive seventy-five dollars.

All soldiers who enlisted prior to July 4, 1864, and served one year, will receive one hundred dollars.

All enlisted men who received discharges to accept promotion will receive eight and one third dollars per month, for each month's service as enlisted men, deducting only the amount of bounty received from the United States Government.

#### JOSEPH'S SUBMISSION.

His Pathetic Speech on Yielding His Arms to General Miles.

A correspondent of the Chicago *Inter-Ocean*, writing from St. Paul, says:

I suppose that the story of Joseph's surrender has grown monotonous to most persons; still, I cannot refrain from giving Joseph's reply to the demand for surrender made by General Miles. Joseph, when he surrendered, stepped up to General Howard, who was standing by the side of General Miles, and handed him his gun. Howard shook his head, and said: "No, Joseph; although I have followed you for nearly three thousand miles, I cannot take the glory from him who deserves it. There is the man to whom you must surrender," pointing to General Miles. Joseph, turning to Miles with a sad smile, handed him his gun, and, through an interpreter, said: "Tell General Howard I know his heart. What he told me before I have in my heart. I am tired of fighting. Our chiefs are killed. Looking-Glass is dead. To-hool-hool-Shuta is dead. The old men are all dead. It is the young men who say yes or no. He who led the young men is dead. It is cold, and we have no blankets. The little children are freezing to death. My people, most of them, have run away to the hills, and have no blankets, no food. No one knows where they are—may be freezing to death. I want time to look for my children, to see how many of them I can find. May be I shall find them among the dead.

"Hear me, my chief! I am tired. My heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."

"When I die," said a married man to his better-half, "I want to go where there are no stoves to put up;" and she cheerfully replied she presumed he would.—*Herald and Presbyterian*.

#### MEDICAL AND SURGICAL HISTORY OF THE WAR.

We publish in this number the bill lately introduced by Mr. Conger, of Michigan, at the request of Mr. Lynde, of Wisconsin, for the printing and distribution of the Medical and Surgical History of the War. All persons interested in this distribution, as proposed by the bill, will, of course, communicate with their Senators and Representatives on the subject.

The bill has been referred to the Committee on Printing, which is a joint committee, and consists of—

Senators:

H. B. Anthony, of Rhode Island.

A. A. Sargent, of California.

W. P. Whyte, of Maryland.

Representatives:

Otho R. Singleton, of Mississippi.

Anthony Eickhoff, of New York.

L. W. Ballou, of Rhode Island.

We hope for the passage of this bill—a proper recognition of the services of the medical staff.

A BILL for the publication and distribution of a new edition of the Medical and Surgical History of the War.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be printed and bound, in the same style as the volumes heretofore published, an edition not to exceed ten thousand complete sets of the Medical and Surgical History of the War, under the supervision of the Surgeon General, United States Army; that such books, when published, shall be distributed as follows: twenty-five hundred complete sets for the use of the House of Representatives; fifteen hundred complete sets for the use of the Senate; the residue to be distributed, without charge, under the directions of the Surgeon General of the Army, in the following manner: one complete set to every surviving member of the medical staff of the volunteer forces, including regimental surgeons and assistant surgeons; one complete set to each surgeon and assistant surgeon in the regular army, and to all members of the medical staff of said regular army who have not already been supplied with the same; and one complete set to every examining surgeon in pension cases; such distribution to be made upon written applications, accompanied by proof of service and identity, within two years from the date of the passage of this act, under such regulations as the Surgeon General may prescribe, to insure the proper fulfillment of the purposes of this law. Any copies remaining of said edition hereby authorized, after distributing the same as hereinbefore required, shall be offered for sale to any practicing physician or surgeon at the cost price for paper, printing, and binding not to exceed, however, two dollars per volume.

#### Mrs. President Grant's Benevolence.

Of Mrs. ex-President Grant, this story of unostentatious benevolence is told: "George S. Joice, of Unadilla, served faithfully through the war of the rebellion, and early in President Grant's first term was appointed a doorkeeper at the Capitol or Executive Mansion. He remained there until some three and a half years ago, then, sickened and returned to Unadilla, to linger through balance of life with consumption. He lived some twelve or fifteen months and died. While in Washington he attracted the favorable attention of Mrs. Grant. His father's family were in very limited financial circumstances, and George was worth nothing but an irreproachable character and good name. Mrs. Grant, in some way, knew of these conditions, and during the entire time that Mr. Joice was lying sick in Unadilla, she sent him each month a check for \$100 until he died. There was never any bluster over the matter, and few people in Unadilla know of it to-day."

#### A Remarkable Temperance Pledge.

Probable the most remarkable temperance pledge on record was that made by a Salt Lake City man, who published the following card in the *Herald* newspaper of that city:

TO THE PUBLIC: Being lately made aware of the fact that I behaved very rudely (while intoxicated) in the presence of a number of ladies and gentlemen, I feel that a public apology from me is due. Realizing that society justly claims better conduct, I have concluded to abstain from the use of liquors, and will reward handsomely any person who sees me drink again, if I am so thoughtless as to do so. I will say to those who are capable of profiting by the experience of another, that drinking stimulants is a "losing game" in every particular. M. GRAHAM.

There are queer nooks and corners left in old England. A visitor to a country parson tells how, when he accompanied him lately to take the duty in a remote parish, the sexton said: "Perhaps your reverence won't mind preaching from the chancel, for we've got a duck a sittin' in the pulpit."